



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Media Advisory and invitation to Chena Project Office Dedication Ceremony and America's Great Outdoors Initiative

The Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, invites you to cover the Chena Project Office dedication ceremony and commemoration of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors event on Aug. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project.

Guest speakers include Alaska's U.S. Senator Mark Begich, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy, and Alaska District Commander, Col. Reinhard W. Koenig. A smoke jumping demonstration by the Bureau of Land Management Alaska Smoke Jumpers will kick off the ceremony.

The Chena Project office was recently modernized to a state-of-the-art energy efficient and environment friendly facility that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. A new 2,250 sq. ft. addition will be used as an entrance foyer, visitor reception area, emergency response bay, and meeting room. Features include a masonry heater and interpretive exhibits.

The original 1988 structure containing existing offices, common office space, kitchen area, restrooms and conference room, was upgraded. Energy upgrades include thickened exterior walls, radiant heating, new energy efficient doors, windows, lighting and additional ceiling insulation. The \$5.47 million construction project was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In addition to commemorating the opening of this facility, Ms. Darcy will discuss the America's Great Outdoors initiative. One of the many objectives of this Presidential initiative is to provide opportunities for our country's veterans to connect with the outdoors. The Chena Project has hosted the first ever Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) moose hunt on Corps land.

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The hunters are selected by a national lottery of the PVA membership. Local volunteers assist the veterans throughout the hunt. The Corps of Engineers and PVA partnership is testimony of what we can do to connect our veterans to America's Great Outdoors.

This event IS OPEN to the public. (Earlier info that it was closed to public was not correct.)

If you would like to cover this event, please contact Pat Richardson, Alaska District Public Affairs, 907-753-2520. Interviews with Ms. Darcy and COL Koenig must be scheduled in advance with the Alaska District Public Affairs Office. Tom Findtner, Alaska District Public Affairs Officer, can be reached through his cell phone, 907-382-1297. Interviews with U.S. Senator Mark Begich must be scheduled with Max Croes, the senator's deputy press secretary at Max_Croes@begich.senate.gov or call 202-374-9882.

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